

# CONCEPTS OF CULTURE



# Overview

- ★ Define culture, subculture, and enculturation
- ★ Discuss attributes and non-attributes of culture
- ★ Discuss the concept of race and ethnic group
- ★ Discuss the implications of cross-cultural interactions
- ★ Discuss the pitfalls in cross-cultural interactions

# Culture

The learned and shared behaviors and perceptions of a group which have been transmitted from generation to generation through a shared symbol system.



# Subculture

Is a group of people within a larger social structure who share cultural and linguistic characteristics which are different enough to distinguish it from others within the same society.



# Enculturation

## ★ The Passing of Culture

- Is socially acceptable behaviors and attitudes
- From the older to the younger members of a group



# Attributes of Culture

- ★ Language and Symbols
  - Methods by which individuals transmit their values, beliefs, and perceptions
- ★ Values
  - Behaviors, people, things, and ideas that are considered central to a given culture



# Attributes of Culture

- ★ Beliefs: Judgments or expectations that a person might have about certain things, or when a large group of people hold the same beliefs then a culture is born
- ★ Patterns of Thinking: The ways we reach conclusions, make deductions, and solve problems
- ★ Customary Behaviors: Patterns of behaving which represent the norms for a culture

# Non-Attributes of Culture

- ★ Race: Attributes of culture are learned, there are more similarities than differences
- ★ Genetics: Culture is not inborn or inherited through genes
- ★ Ethnicity: Is defined as those characteristics that distinguish a group by race, religion, national origin, language or a combination of these. Can influence how a person learns the culture



# Implications of Cross-Culture Interactions

- ★ Language Differences
- ★ Being Blunt
- ★ Testing
- ★ Customs, Observances, and Necessities
  - Religious Holidays
  - Haircuts
  - Dietary Restrictions
- ★ Supervisor/Subordinate Relationship
- ★ Military Justice
- ★ Social and Support Grouping



# Pitfalls of Cross-Cultural Interactions

- ★ Stereotyping
- ★ Assumptions
- ★ Differences



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